

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

The House passed S. 256, Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3609–S3715

Measures Introduced: Thirty one bills and seven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 780–810, S.J. Res.12–13, S. Res.107–110, and S. Con. Res.27.

Pages S3652–53

Measures Reported:

S. 119, to provide for the protection of unaccompanied alienchildren, with an amendment.

S. 555, to amend the Sherman Act to make oil-producing and exporting cartels illegal. **Page S3652**

Measures Passed:

Robert T. Matsui U.S. Courthouse: Senate passed H.R. 787, to designate the United States courthouse located at 501 I Street in Sacramento, California, as the “Robert T. Matsui United States Courthouse”, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S3712**

University of Oklahoma Sooner Men’s Gymnastics Champions: Senate agreed to S. Res. 109, commending the University of Oklahoma Sooners men’s gymnastics team for winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men’s Gymnastics Championship. **Page S3712**

Oklahoma State University’s Wrestling Team Champions: Senate agreed to S.Res.110, commending Oklahoma State University’s wrestling team for winning the 2005 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Wrestling Championship. **Pages S3712–13**

National Month of the Military Child: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 27, honoring military children during “National Month of the Military Child”. **Page S3713**

Supplemental Appropriations: Senate continued consideration of H.R. 1268, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending

September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver’s license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S3616–3645

Adopted:

Cochran (for Leahy/Obama) Amendment No. 422, of a technical nature. **Page S3619**

Cochran (for Salazar) Modified Amendment No. 370, to provide assistance to promote democracy in Lebanon. **Page S3619**

Cochran (for Leahy) Amendment No. 423, to provide reprogramming authority for certain accounts in the Departments of Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2005. **Page S3619**

Cochran (for Reid/Levin) Amendment No. 361, to express the sense of the Senate that veterans with a service-connected disability rated as total by virtue of unemployability should be treated as covered by the repeal of the phase-in of concurrent receipt of retired pay and veterans disability compensation for military retirees. **Page S3620**

Cochran Amendment No. 424, of a technical nature. **Pages S3620–21**

By a unanimous vote of 98 yeas (Vote No. 95), Byrd Modified Amendment No. 430, to prohibit the use of funds by any Federal agency to produce a pre-packaged news story without including in such story a clear notification for the audience that the story was prepared or funded by a Federal agency.

Pages S3630–41

Obama Amendment No. 390, to provide meal and telephone benefits for members of the Armed Forces who are recuperating from injuries incurred

on active duty in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom. **Pages S3641–43**

Cochran (for Salazar) Amendment No. 352, to rename the death gratuity payable for deaths of members of the Armed Forces as fallen hero compensation. **Page S3643**

Cochran (for Specter) Amendment No. 438, to make a technical correction to cite the proper section intended to repeal the Department of Labor's transfer authority. **Page S3643**

Cochran (for Graham) Amendment No. 354, to prohibit the implementation of certain orders and guidance on the functions and duties of the General Counsel and Judge Advocate General of the Air Force. **Page S3643**

Cochran (for Kennedy) Amendment No. 393, to clarify the limitation on the implementation of mission changes for specified Veterans Health Administration Facilities. **Pages S3643–44**

Cochran (for Warner) Amendment No. 394, to require a report on the re-use and redevelopment of military installations closed or realigned as part of the 2005 round of base closure and realignment. **Page S3644**

Pending:

Mikulski Amendment No. 387, to revise certain requirements for H-2B employers and require submission of information regarding H-2B non-immigrants. **Pages S3616, S3626–27, S3638**

Feinstein Amendment No. 395, to express the sense of the Senate that the text of the REAL ID Act of 2005 should not be included in the conference report. **Pages S3616, S3645**

Bayh Amendment No. 406, to protect the financial condition of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are ordered to long-term active duty in support of a contingency operation. **Page S3616**

Durbin Amendment No. 427, to require reports on Iraqi security services. **Pages S3621–26**

Salazar Amendment No. 351, to express the sense of the Senate that the earned income tax credit provides critical support to many military and civilian families. **Pages S3627–30**

Dorgan/Durbin Amendment No. 399, to prohibit the continuation of the independent counsel investigation of Henry Cisneros past June 1, 2005 and request an accounting of costs from GAO. **Pages S3640–41**

Reid Amendment No. 445, to achieve an acceleration and expansion of efforts to reconstruct and rehabilitate Iraq and to reduce the future risks to United States Armed Forces personnel and future costs to United States taxpayers, by ensuring that the people of Iraq and other nations do their fair share to secure and rebuild Iraq. **Pages S3644–45**

A motion was entered to close further debate on Mikulski Amendment No. 387 (listed above) and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Saturday, April 16, 2005.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, April 14, 2005. **Page S3635**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Phyllis F. Scheinberg, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

David R. Hill, of Missouri, to be General Counsel of the Department of Energy.

Craig Roberts Stapleton, of Connecticut, to be Ambassador to France.

Eduardo Aguirre, Jr., of Texas, to be Ambassador to Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to Andorra.

Emil A. Skodon, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam.

2 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

5 Army nominations in the rank of general.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Army.

Pages S3714–15

Messages From the House:

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Measures Referred:

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Executive Communications:

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Executive Reports of Committees:

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Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S3653–55

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

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Additional Statements:

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Amendments Submitted:

Pages S3691–S3711

Notices of Hearings/Meetings:

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Authority for Committees to Meet:

Pages S3711–12

Privilege of the Floor:

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Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total–95) **Page S3641**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 7:20 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Friday, April 15, 2005. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S3713–14.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: HUD

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, after receiving testimony from Alphonso Jackson, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006, after receiving testimony in behalf of funds for their respective activities from William T. Hawks, Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Eric M. Bost, Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, and Merle D. Pearson, Acting Under Secretary for Food Safety and Inspection, all of the Department of Agriculture.

APPROPRIATIONS: NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006, after receiving testimony in behalf of funds for his respective activities from Linton F. Brooks, Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy.

NATIONAL SECURITY PERSONNEL SYSTEM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine implementation by the Department of Defense of the National Security Personnel System, focusing on pay, performance, accountability, staffing flexibilities, and labor relations, after receiving testimony from Gordon R. England, Secretary of the Navy; Dan G. Blair, Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management; Derek B. Stewart, Director, Military and Department of Defense Civilian Personnel Issues, Government Accountability Office; and John Gage, American Federation of Government Employees, and Hannah S. Sistare, National Academy of Public Administration, both of Washington, D.C.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Airland concluded a hearing to examine Air Force acquisition oversight in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2006, after receiving testimony from Paul J. McNulty, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, Department of Justice; Joseph E. Schmitz, Inspector General, Michael L. Dominguez, Acting Secretary of the Air Force, and Sallie Flavin, Deputy Director, Defense Contract Management Agency, all of the Department of Defense; and Daniel I. Gordon, Managing Associate General Counsel for Procurement Law, Government Accountability Office.

TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE PROGRAM

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the implementation of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program, focusing on the role of the Federal government in ensuring that insurance to protect against losses from acts of terrorism remains available to Americans, after receiving testimony from Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Director, Congressional Budget Office; Howard Mills, New York State Department of Insurance, Albany, on behalf of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners; and Ernst Csiszar, Property Casualty Insurers Association of America, J. Robert Hunter, Consumer Federation of America, Brian Duperreault, ACE Limited, on behalf of the American Insurance Association, Franklin W. Nutter, Reinsurance Association of America, and Robert J. Lowe, Lowe Enterprises, on behalf of the Coalition to Insure Against Terrorism, all of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 364, to establish a program within the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration to integrate Federal coastal and ocean mapping activities, with amendments;

S. 714, to amend section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 relating to the prohibition on junk fax transmissions, with amendments;

S. 432, to establish a digital and wireless network technology program;

An original bill, to reauthorize and improve surface transportation safety programs; and

The nominations of a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Promotion List, and 2 Coast Guard Promotion Lists.